AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Thrice Amended) A method of forming air gaps within an integrated circuit structure, comprising the steps of:

providing a partially fabricated integrated circuit structure and depositing a layer of dielectric thereon;

forming a metal layer on said dielectric layer;

depositing a thin layer of oxide over said dielectric layer, thereby including said metal layer;

forming a structure for a first layer of cavities over said thin layer of oxide and aligned with said metal layer, said forming a structure for a first layer of cavities comprising applying and patterning a first layer of disposable solid followed by applying and patterning a first layer of oxide, said patterning a first layer of oxide further comprising forming a first and a second opening through said first layer of oxide;

forming a structure for a second layer of cavities above and aligned with said structure for said first layer of cavities, said forming a structure for a second layer of

cavities comprising applying and patterning a second layer of disposable solid followed by applying and patterning a second layer of oxide, said patterning a second layer of oxide further comprising forming a first and a second opening through said second layer of oxide;

creating the first and the second layer of cavities;

performing an oxide deposition over said second layer of cavities, creating a thin layer of oxide; and

forming a metal inductor on said thin layer of oxide.

Please amend claim 2 as follows:

2. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said forming a metal layer on said dielectric layer is forming a metal layer that has a cross section of a square or a rectangle with essentially vertical sides, whereby a height of said metal layer is equal to a thickness of a conventional semiconductor metal layer, whereby a width of said metal layer is equal to or exceeds its height.

Please amend claim 3 as follows:

3. (Thrice Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said forming the structure for a first layer of cavities comprises the steps of:

depositing said first layer of disposable solid over said thin layer of oxide;

creating an opening in said first layer of disposable solid, whereby said opening aligns with said metal layer and has a dimension when measured in a direction along said thin layer of oxide that is smaller than a dimension of said metal layer;

depositing a first layer of oxide over said first layer of disposable solid, thereby including said opening in said first layer of disposable solid, whereby said first layer of oxide has a dimension of thickness in addition to having a dimension of width; and

creating a first and a second opening in said first layer of oxide, whereby said first and second openings are located at opposite extremities of said first layer of oxide, whereby a distance between a center of said first and second openings is less than said dimension of width of said first layer of oxide.

Please amend claim 4 as follows:

4. (Thrice Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said forming the structure for a second layer of cavities comprises the steps of:

depositing said second layer of disposable solid over said first layer of oxide, thereby including said first and second openings created in said first layer of oxide;

creating an opening in said second layer of disposable solid, whereby said opening aligns with said metal layer and has a dimension when measured in a direction along said first layer of oxide that is approximately equal to a dimension of the opening created in said first layer of disposable solid;

depositing a second layer of oxide over said second layer of disposable solid, thereby including said opening created in said second layer of disposable solid, whereby said second layer of oxide has a dimension of thickness in addition to having a dimension of width; and

creating a first and a second opening in said second layer of oxide, whereby said first and second openings are located at opposite extremities of said second layer of oxide, whereby a distance between a center of said first and second openings is less than said dimension of width of said second layer of oxide.

Please amend claim 5 as follows:

5. (Thrice Amended) The method of claim 1, said creating a first and a second layer of cavities is removing said first and second layer of disposable solid, said removal to take place by accessing said first and second layer of disposable solid by means of said first and second opening created in said second layer of oxide, furthermore by accessing said first layer of disposable solid by means of said first and second openings in

said first layer of oxide, creating a first layer and a second layer of dielectric comprising horizontal oxide fins, further creating a first layer and a second layer of horizontal air gaps being interspersed with said first layer and a second layer of dielectric.

Please amend claim 6 as follows:

6. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said performing an oxide deposition over said second layer of cavities is creating a thin layer of oxide over said second layer of oxide, thereby furthermore closing said first and said second openings created in said second layer of oxide.

Please amend claim 7 as follows:

7. (Thrice Amended) The method of claim 1, creating additional layers of cavities over a preceding layer of cavities, said additional layers being created prior to performing an oxide deposition over an upper or last layer of cavities, said creation of additional layers of cavities comprising the steps of:

depositing an additional layer of disposable solid over a layer of oxide of a preceding layer of cavities, thereby including first and second openings created in said layer of oxide of a preceding layer of cavities;

creating an opening in said additional layer of disposable solid, said opening being aligned with said metal layer and having a dimension when measured in a direction along said layer of oxide of a preceding layer of cavities that is approximately equal to a dimension of an opening created in a preceding layer of disposable solid;

depositing an additional layer of oxide over said additional layer of disposable solid, thereby including said opening created in said additional layer of disposable solid, said additional layer of oxide having a dimension of thickness in addition to having a dimension of width; and

creating a first and a second opening in said additional layer of oxide, said first and second openings being located at opposite extremes of said additional layer of oxide, a distance between a center of said first and second openings being less than said dimension of width of said additional layer of oxide, creating a first layer and a second layer of dielectric comprising horizontal oxide fins, further creating a first layer and a second layer of horizontal air gaps being interspersed with said first layer and a second layer of dielectric.

Please amend claim 8 as follows:

8. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 1, said first and second layers of disposable solid comprising a polymer.